




### Multi-jurisdictional TREE – ID TEAM.


City, County and State officials are evaluating their respective properties and right of ways for host material and pest control treatment. But, our success in stopping apple maggot invasion depends on homeowner cooperation.


### How you can help

 **Call WSU Extension** and speak with an Extension Agent or Master Gardener volunteer if you suspect that you have apple maggots in trees on your property or adjacent areas. We can help you protect and eradicate apple maggot from your trees.

 **Remove all neglected fruit trees** from your property. We encourage you to replace these trees with suitable shade trees and we may be able to cover some of your replacement costs.

 **Remove all maggot-infested fruit** from your property. Place all infested fruit in a heavy-duty plastic bag, seal and leave in the sun. After a couple days, place sealed bag in garbage. Do not leave infested fruit on the ground; the maggots will overwinter in the soil under the tree.

 **Do not transport homegrown apples** or crabapples especially from abandoned or neglected fruit trees!

 **Do not plant apple, crabapple or hawthorn trees** on your property unless you are willing and able to protect them every year from apple maggot!

### Who to call about apple maggots in Yakima County.

Office: WSU Extension & the Yakima County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board

Address: 128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 233  
Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: 509-574-1600

E-mail: Mike Bush [bushm@wsu.edu](mailto:bushm@wsu.edu)

*We urge you to contact us if you suspect that apple maggots infest apple, crabapple and hawthorn trees on your property or in adjacent areas. We can provide information and resources to help you protect and eradicate apple maggot from your property. These actions will not only benefit you, but will help protect our tree fruit industry.*

***Thank you for  
your cooperation!***

*Sponsored by Yakima County  
Horticulture Pest & Disease Board,  
Northwest Horticultural Council, WA  
State Dept. of Agriculture, Yakima  
Valley Growers-Shippers Association,  
North Yakima Conservation District,  
Yakima Pomological Club & WSU  
Extension.*

## **ATTENTION YAKIMA COUNTY HOMEOWNERS!!**

### **We Need Your Help To Protect Our Trees and Apples!!**

**A new pest, the Apple  
Maggot, has invaded our  
valley!**



Apple maggots - actual size is 1/16 to 1/4 inch.

### **Why should you care?**

The apple maggot is a non-native fruit-eating insect that just loves apples, crabapples and hawthorns. This destructive pest poses a serious threat to the reputation of Washington's world-renowned apple industry!

### What does the maggot look like?

The larva or maggot is a legless, headless white grub (see picture on front) that feeds on apple fruit leaving brownish, irregular tunnels. The larva spends the winter in the soil under the host tree. Come summer, the adult fly emerges and moves back into the tree.

The adult fly looks like a common housefly, but has a distinctive black and white spider-like pattern on its wings and lower body. The fly is attracted to yellow sticky traps and red spheres.



Adult apple maggot fly – actual size ¼ inch long.

### How did the apple maggot get into our Valley?

The primary “host material” for apple maggots is neglected or abandoned backyard apple, hawthorn and crabapple trees. While the adult can fly, it rarely flies far from its host tree. Researchers suggest apples infested with maggots were accidentally transported into our County, where the fruit was then improperly disposed of.

*“Research suggests that the establishment of apple maggot in the major fruit producing areas of Washington State could cost up to \$75 million per year.”*

**– WA State Dept of Ag**



Dimpling caused by Apple Maggot



External damage from Apple Maggot

### Areas within Yakima County quarantined for Apple Maggot.

The Wash. State Dept. of Agriculture has trapped for apple maggot in Yakima County since 1982 with the first fly caught in 1995. Over the last few years, hundreds of adult flies have been trapped annually in non-orchard areas.

In 2004, WSDA found a second life form – apple maggots in fruit – which triggered the agency’s apple maggot quarantine of areas within the County.

Our efforts to keep the fly from spreading to orchards are a top priority.



### Hardship for the local fruit industry.

Although no apple maggots have been found in our local commercial orchards, the quarantine will require all commercial apple growers to have their fruit inspected and certified by the WSDA as apple maggot-free.

If WSDA finds apple maggots in any apple lot during inspection, that fruit cannot be shipped to adjacent counties or several outside fruit markets.

### Threat to the State’s Fruit Industry.

If apple maggot became established in the major fruit producing regions of central and eastern Washington, it would cause millions of dollars in economic losses. Currently, the best management tool for homeowners and growers to protect their fruit trees are late-season insecticide applications that target the adult fly.